

May 5, 2009

Reference: Opposition to House Bills #4518, #4594, #4595 and #4596

Dear State Representative(s),

I am writing you this letter in opposition to the above mentioned House Bills. Representative Meadows sponsored these bills to protect the rights of over 300 juveniles who have been sentenced to life in prison without parole. Frankly, after three chances to be called a juvenile by the courts I think their rights have been more than taken into consideration.

These killers participated in one way or another in horrible and often pre-meditated crimes. In my mind if they were adult enough to contemplate and plan out their crime ahead of time they are adult enough to be punished appropriately. When I was sixteen the worst thing I ever conspired to do was throw toilet paper in some trees, I was certainly not adult enough to consider murder let alone carry it out. These killers are not juveniles.

I am not certain how much opposition to this bill you have heard, but my guess is it hasn't been much. Until just recently I didn't consider it necessary to register with the Department of Corrections because I was assured 15 years ago that my brother's killers would never get out of prison. That closure could be taken away if these bills become law. Since these bills have been introduced my father, siblings and I have all registered with the Department of Corrections so we can be kept informed of any changes in the status of my brothers' killers. I'm not convinced that other families this bill will affect are aware of the bills, or have registered. That concerns me. For these bills to become law without them being aware that their sense of justice and closure could be taken away is a crime in its own right. My family was fortunate; we learned of the bills and are voicing our opinions. Were the other families as fortunate?

I urge you to not seriously consider these bills. There needs to be consideration for the loved ones left behind from these horrible crimes. Thank you for your time reading this letter and please keep this letter in mind when considering these bills.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Cook  
Highland, Michigan 48356